

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A computer network, comprising:
- one or more work centers, each comprising work center devices;
  - cabling, communicatively coupled with said work centers;
  - one or more network servers, communicatively coupled with said cabling and said work centers; and,
  - one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices located at one or more of said work centers, wherein: said powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices are communicatively coupled with said cabling and said work center devices such that signals between said work center devices and said network servers are multiplexed in said cabling.
2. The computer network described in Claim 1, wherein said powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices are fixedly located at said work centers.
3. The computer network described in Claim 1 wherein said work center devices comprise computers.

4. The computer network described in Claim 1 wherein said work center devices comprise computer peripheral devices.

5. The computer network described in Claim 1 wherein said work center devices comprise voice telephones.

6. The computer network described in Claim 1 wherein said powered, intelligent, multiplexing devices are enabled to be coupled wirelessly to said work center devices.

7. The computer network described in Claim 1 wherein said cabling is fiber-optic cabling.

8. The computer network described in Claim 1 wherein said cabling is wire cabling.

9. A method for connecting devices to a network at a work center, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector at said work center capable of connecting said network devices to said network;
- b) electronically coupling two or more of said network devices to said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector; and,

c) ~~multiplexing signals between said network and said network devices.~~

10. The method described in Claim 9, wherein said step of electronically coupling two or more of said network devices to said network is accomplished with modular cable connectors.

11. The method described in Claim 9, wherein said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector is fixedly located at said work center.

12. The method described in Claim 9, wherein said step of multiplexing signals is accomplished in part by said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector at said work center.

13. The method described in Claim 9, wherein said step of multiplexing signals comprises multiplexing data signals.

14. The method described in Claim 9, wherein said step of multiplexing signals comprises multiplexing device power.

15. A method for managing a computer network, wherein said computer network comprises one or more network servers and one or more work centers, comprising the steps of:

- a) providing one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors, at one or more of said work centers;
- b) electronically coupling two or more network devices to said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector;
- c) multiplexing signals between said network and said network devices;
- d) monitoring the status of the infrastructure of said network; and,
- e) communicating information of said status of said infrastructure to the management of said network.

16. The method described in Claim 15 wherein said step of providing one or more powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors is accomplished by fixedly locating said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors at said work centers.

17. The method described in Claim 15, wherein said step of electronically coupling two or more network devices to said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector is accomplished with modular cable connectors.

18. The method described in Claim 15, wherein said step of electronically coupling two or more network devices to said

powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector comprises electronically coupling computers.

19. The method described in Claim 15, wherein said step of electronically coupling two or more network devices to said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector comprises electronically coupling computer peripheral devices.

20. The method described in Claim 15, wherein said step of electronically coupling two or more network devices to said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connector comprises electronically coupling voice telephones.

21. The method described in Claim 15, wherein said step of multiplexing signals is capable of multiplexing network data signals.

22. The method described in Claim 15, wherein said step of multiplexing signals is capable of multiplexing device power.

23. The method described in Claim 15, wherein said step of multiplexing signals is accomplished in said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors.

25. The method described in Claim 15, wherein said step of communicating information of the status of said infrastructure of said network is accomplished in part by the use of circuitry resident in said powered, intelligent, multiplexing device connectors.